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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON THE
REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR
CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS
Third session
8-19 January 1996
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. General review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.

3. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its third session.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. General review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations

In its resolution 1993/80, the Economic and Social Council requested the Working Group to undertake the general review called for by the Council in its decision 1993/214, with a view to updating, if necessary, Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), as well as with a view to introducing coherence in the rules governing the participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences convened by the United Nations. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to review the report of the Working Group and to transmit its comments to the Council.

The Working Group held an organizational session on 17 February 1994, at which it made suggestions on the information that should be provided to it at its first session.

At its first session (20-23 June 1994), the Working Group had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the general review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations (E/AC.70/1994/5 and Add.1). The Working Group gave particular attention to the following: issues arising from experience in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV); review of the categories of status of non-governmental organizations; consultative arrangements and accreditation to United Nations world conferences; experience gained from the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and problems faced by non-governmental organizations under the current arrangements. On the basis of the discussions at the first session, an informal paper was prepared for submission to the Working Group at an informal inter-sessional meeting on 7 and 8 November 1994.

At its second session (8-12 May, and 26 and 31 May 1995), the Working Group had before it a further working document (E/AC.70/1995/CRP.1), prepared on the basis of the discussions at the above-mentioned informal inter-sessional meeting. The Working Group recommended to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of a draft decision on the general review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, and decided to annex to the report on its second session (E/1995/83) the compilation of proposals submitted by the Working Group during its discussion of the review (E/1995/83/Add.1).

In its resolution 1994/28, the Economic and Social Council requested the Working Group to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 the report on its second session. The Council also invited the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to transmit to the Council at the same session its comments on that report. The Committee met from 12 to 23 June 1995, and held a preliminary discussion of the issues contained in the report of the Working Group on its second session (see E/1995/108 for the preliminary comments of the Committee).

In its decision 1995/304 of 26 July 1995, the Council decided, inter alia, to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a period of one year, with a meeting time of not less than two weeks, and requested the Working Group to submit its final report to the Council at its substantive session of 1996. In its deliberations, the Council had before it the report of the Working Group on its second session, including the programme budget implications of the Working Group's draft decision (E/1995/83 and Add.1 and 2), as well as the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1995/108).

Documentation

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental Organizations on its second session: compilation of proposals (E/1995/83/Add.1)

3. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its third session

The Working Group will adopt the report on its third session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996.